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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 12, 2019

A meeting of the Higher Education Commission was held at 3 Barrell Court in Concord at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 with the following members present:

Michele Perkins, Chair  
Donald Birx, Vice Chair  
Michael Apfelberg  
Sr. Paula Marie Buley  
John Curran  
Frank Edelblut  
Peter Koch  
Mark Laliberte  
Todd Leach  
Charles Lloyd  
Mark Rubinstein  
Alfred Williams

The following members were unable to attend:

James Dean  
Steven DiSalvo  
Ross Gittell  
Paul LeBlanc  
Kim Mooney  
Melinda Treadwell

- 1) Chair Perkins called the meeting to order.
- 2) Sr. Paula Marie Buley moved, seconded by Mr. Koch, to accept the minutes of October 9, 2018. An amendment was made to change Item 1) to Item 11) on Page 5 and to remove "Emergency Meeting." The motion passed without dissent.
- 3) Director Seidel presented the request from New England College to offer the Bachelor of Fine Arts with Majors in Fine and Media Arts, and Creative Writing. The Commission formed a sub-committee consisting of Mr. Edelblut, Mr. Leach, and Director Seidel to review the proposal for

this request. The sub-committee enlisted subject matter expert retired Professor Fred Fehlau to review the proposal and provide a recommendation. Fred Fehlau was Provost at the Art Center College of Design and was previously the chair of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design. On November 1, 2018, the sub-committee reviewed Fred Fehlau's report and asked many questions of him and New England College representatives, and concluded that the proposal met all the Commission standards. However, due to administrative requirements, a formal vote by the Higher Education Commission was necessary.

It was recommended the Commission vote to approve the Bachelor of Fine Arts with Majors in Fine and Media Arts, and Creative Writing through December 31, 2021. A Commission representative will accompany the planned New England Commission of Higher Education site visit to assess implementation in the fall 2020.

Approval was with the condition that all materials (including annual reports) and correspondence to and from the New England Commission of Higher Education be forwarded to the Commission. Additionally, the Commission would be invited to attend any scheduled visits.

Mr. Edelblut moved, seconded by Mr. Curran, to accept the recommendations. The motion passed without dissent, with Chair Perkins abstaining.

- 4) Director Seidel presented the request from Northeast Catholic College to continue to offer the Associate of Arts and Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies. The New England Commission of Higher Education held a site visit April 8 to April 11, 2018, which a Commission observer attended. The site visit went well, with all Commission standards being met.

The NECHE granted initial accreditation, effective April 11, 2018, with certain requirements.

It was recommended the Commission vote to extend degree-granting authority until December 31, 2023 to align with the New England Commission of Higher Education.

Approval was with the condition that copies of all correspondence to and from the New England Commission of Higher Education be forwarded to the Commission. Additionally, the Commission would be invited to attend any scheduled visits. Participation as an observer at site visits would be determined upon review and receipt of correspondence.

Sr. Paul Marie Buley moved, seconded by Mr. Edelblut, to accept the recommendations. The motion passed without dissent.

- 5) On the motion of Mr. Leach, seconded by Mr. Curran, the Commission voted to recommend the appointment of Sr. Paula Marie Buley to the N.H. College Tuition Savings Plan Advisory Commission. The motion passed without dissent, with Sr. Paula Marie Buley abstaining.
- 6) Director Seidel presented meeting dates for 2019 as follows:
  - Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.
  - Tuesday, May 14, 2019 @ 2:00 p.m.
  - Tuesday, October 8, 2019 @ 2:00 p.m.

- 7) On the motion of Mr. Edelblut, seconded by Mr. Koch, the discussion of international universities was tabled. The motion passed without dissent. This item will be placed on a future agenda.
- 8) Director Seidel presented highlights of the Director's Report. Major highlights included:
  - a. Introduction of Ashlee Stetser, new administrator for the Bureau of Educator Preparation and Higher Education under the Division of Educator Support and Higher Education.
  - b. Receipt of New England College's required Progress Report on the planned merger with the New Hampshire Institute of Art which met all requirements.
  - c. Receipt of Signum University's required Letter of Credit.
  - d. Update on current legislation.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.